Bernard Charles Cotton, F.R.Z.S.

Patron of the Society since 1956. Mr. Cotton is Curator of Molluscs at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide; past President of the Royal Society of South Australia; editor *South Australian Naturalist* for seventeen years. He is also author of *British Science Guild Handbooks* on South Australian Mollusca; Foundation Honorary Member of the Malacological Section of the Royal Society of South Australia, and Consulting Malacologist to the Natural Science Foundation, Philadelphia. Mr. Cotton was awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion in 1950. His newest publication, *South Australian Mollusca Archaeogastropoda,* came out in July, 1959.

OBITUARY

CHARLES FRANCIS LASERON

Mr. Charles Laseron, who died in Sydney on 27th June, 1959, has during recent years made many notable contributions to Australian malacology. His early life was a most varied one, and included a trip to the Antarctic with Mawson's 1911-1914 expedition, many years of work as collector for the Technological Museum in Sydney, and service in two world wars, including the Gallipoli landing, as well as an intense interest in collecting shells.

Towards the close of his working life, he took up the scientific study of the marine molluscs in his collection, and soon found an enormous field for original research on the minute species which had been largely neglected by earlier workers. Starting with the New South Wales Marginellidae and Rissoidae in 1948 and 1950, he worked group by group through the smaller shells, later on expanding his studies to the Queensland and Northern Australian forms. His papers were always illustrated with his own drawings, which at first were simple, though adequate, and later reached an excellence which has seldom been equalled for small molluscs.

Some workers might not have agreed entirely with his systematics, but none would doubt the intense and absorbing interest which he found in these tiny shells and the endless hours of patient observation which went into the sorting, description and drawing of the many species with which he dealt. Laseron's work will stand for years as a basic reference for all who seek to identify the minute mollusca of eastern Australia.

Donald F. McMichael, Ph.D., Curator of Molluscs,
The Australian Museum.